

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Frank Tise on 01/26/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. A process for purifying polluted air, which process includes in a conditioning chamber, conditioning the polluted air by moistening it; allowing the conditioned polluted air to pass from the conditioning chamber into an air purification chamber; and in the air purification chamber, passing the conditioned polluted air through a fluidized bed of micro-organism-containing particulate media while simultaneously stirring the fluidized bed so that, as the conditioned polluted air passes through the fluidized bed, organic pollutants therein are decomposed by the micro-organisms, with purified air containing a lower level of the organic pollutants than the conditioned polluted air that enters the fluidized bed, emerging from the fluidized bed.

Answers to Applicant's Amendments

2. The objections to the Specification of the office action mailed 07/23/2009 have been withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments.

3. The 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 rejections of the office action mailed 07/23/2009 have been withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-5 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose or make obvious the process for purifying polluted air as claimed in independent claim 1. In particular, the prior art fails to disclose or make obvious moistening the polluted air in a conditioning chamber before passing the air from the conditioning chamber into the air purification chamber, where the air is then passed through a fluidized bed of microorganism-containing particulate media that is actively stirred while the polluted air passes through the fluidized bed. Adding moisture to the air in a separate chamber allows sufficiently high moisture content for efficient biofiltration.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER P. JONES whose telephone number is

(571)270-7383. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571)272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. P. J./
Examiner, Art Unit 1797

/ROBERT J. HILL, JR/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797